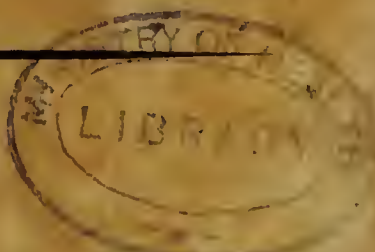


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**BOROUGH OF BUCKINGHAM**



**ANNUAL REPORT**

OF THE

**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**

FOR THE YEAR

**1954.**



**1954**  
**BOROUGH OF BUCKINGHAM**

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Mayor :  
COUNCILLOR H. E. CORNWALL, J.P.

Deputy Mayor :  
ALDERMAN S. G. WILLIAMS, B.A.

**Public Health Committee**  
(Full Council)

Chairman : Alderman A. E. Busby, J.P.

Alderman The Rt. Hon. Lord Addington, O.B.E., T.D., D.L.	
Alderman P. J. Small	Coun. W. Krohn
Coun. J. S. Butler	„ R. J. W. Bodenham,
„ Rev. J. G. Campbell	J.P., M.A.
„ G. F. A. Downer	„ T. Lambourne
„ J. Edmonds	„ Lieut.-Col. L. H.
„ T. E. E. Holton	Worlledge
„ F. E. Y. Fleet	„ A. G. F. Marriott

**Public Health Staff :**

Medical Officer of Health :

D. H. WALDRON,

O.B.E., M.D., D.P.H., D.T.M. & H., Col. I.M.S. (Rtd.)

(The Medical Officer of Health is also M.O.H. for  
Buckingham R.D.C., Bletchley U.D.C., Linslade U.D.C.,  
Wing R.D.C., Newport Pagnell U.D.C., and Newport  
Pagnell R.D.C., and Divisional School M.O. for North  
Bucks and Buckingham and Winslow District, and Area  
Medical Officer for North Bucks).

Sanitary Inspector :

R. TAYLOR, M.S.I.A.

Secretary :

Miss A. CRANWELL.

## BOROUGH OF BUCKINGHAM

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TOWN HALL,  
BUCKINGHAM.

June, 1955.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors  
of the Borough of Buckingham.

Mr. Mayor, My Lord, and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the  
Year 1954.

The health of the Borough has been very satisfactory  
during the Year.

The Birth Rate has again shown a rise, being now the  
second highest of the 20 County Districts, and is approxi-  
mately 4 points above the rate for England and Wales.

The Death Rate shows a substantial increase over the  
previous year which was the lowest on record for 10 years.  
There were a total of 51 deaths of which Heart Diseases and  
Cancer accounted for 40. Thirty-three of the deaths were  
aged 70 or over.

Last year we had a satisfactory nil report in the case  
of Infantile Mortality. This year I have to report 2 deaths  
in this group, giving an Infantile Mortality rate of 27.4 as  
against the rate for England and Wales of 25.5.

I should like again to thank your Officers and their  
staffs for their helpful co-operation during the year.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

D. H. WALDRON.

## A. Vital Statistics.

	1953	1954
Area (in acres) ... ..	5367	5367
Population ... ..	4027	4090
Number of Inhabited Houses ... ..	1514	1534
Rateable Value ... ..	£24,386	£26,307
Rate per £1 ... ..	26/3	27/-
Sum represented by a Penny Rate ...	£102	£108

BIRTHS :	M.	F.		
Legitimate ... ..	42	26	58	68
Illegitimate ... ..	4	1	4	5
Birth rate per 1,000 population ...			15.4	19.0
„ „ „ (Bucks) ...			14.9	15.6
„ „ „ (England & Wales)			15.5	15.2
Still Births ... ..			1	Nil

	M.	F.		
DEATHS ... ..	30	21	34	51
Death rate per 1,000 population...			8.4	11.2
„ „ „ (Bucks) ...			9.7	9.5
„ „ „ (England & Wales)			11.4	11.3
Maternal Mortality Rate... ..			Nil	Nil
„ „ „ (Bucks) ...			0.76	0.47

## INFANTILE MORTALITY

Deaths of Infants under 1 year per				
1,000 live births ... ..			Nil	27.4
„ (Bucks) ... ..			20.0	22.4
„ (England & Wales)...			26.8	25.5

				1953			1954		
PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH:				M	F	T	M	F	T
Respiratory Tuberculosis	...			0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Tuberculosis	...			0	0	0	0	0	0
Influenza	...			1	1	2	0	0	0
Cancer	...			8	5	13	5	6	11
Diabetes	...			0	0	0	0	1	1
Cerebral Haemorrhage	...			2	0	2	7	7	14
Heart Disease	...			5	7	12	9	6	15
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	...			0	0	0	0	0	0
Bronchitis	...			1	2	3	1	1	2
Pneumonia	...			1	0	1	3	0	3
Digestive Diseases	...			0	0	0	0	0	0
Congenital Causes	...			0	0	0	0	0	0
Nephritis	...			0	0	0	0	0	0
Violence	...			0	0	0	1	0	1
All other Causes	...			0	1	1	4	0	4
TOTALS	...			18	16	34	30	21	51

## B. General Provision of Health Services.

### 1. LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Specimens for pathological investigation were sent, as in previous years, to the laboratory at Oxford. The arrangement was satisfactory. Samples for chemical analysis have to be sent to Haywards Heath.

### 2. AMBULANCE SERVICES.

These are administered direct from the County Health Department, Aylesbury. One sitting case car was stationed in Buckingham, and supplemented when necessary with ambulances from Bletchley.

### 3. NURSING IN THE HOME.

The District Nurses as always carried out their excellent work.

### 4. CLINICAL AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

(a) Maternity and Child Welfare Centre.—A Centre at the Congregational Chapel Hall has held bi-monthly sessions with the Medical Officer in attendance once a month. Although the amenities of the Centre were far from ideal, good work has been carried out therein and attendance has been satisfactory. Total attendance of children throughout the



year was 519. I feel that too much praise cannot be given to those ladies who give so much of their spare time in helping with this work. Diphtheria immunisations were also carried out in this Clinic.

(b) Orthopaedic Clinic.—Sessions have been held twice monthly and have been staffed by nurses from the Wingfield Morris Hospital.

(c) Chest Clinic.—This self-contained unit, complete with X-ray, continues to do very good work. It is held once a week at 19, Stratford Road, and is attended by the Chest Physician.

## 5. HOSPITALS.

The following hospitals have received cases from this area :

1. Buckingham Hospital.
2. Aylesbury Isolation Hospital (Infectious cases).
3. Slade Hospital, Oxford.
4. Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford.
5. Wingfield-Morris Hospital, Oxford.
6. Creton Sanatorium.

## 6. DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE.

This service, instituted under the National Health Service Act, is administered on behalf of the County Council by the Women's Voluntary Service. During the year 44 cases were assisted.

## C. Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

### 1. WATER.

The public water supply was maintained throughout the year satisfactorily as regards quantity, and the high bacteriological quality was maintained.

Waste water detection was still carried out during the year, and the daily consumption averaged 37 gallons per head of the population. The amount of water consumed during the year was 55,279,700 gallons and the amount pumped from the deep well was 48,466,900 gallons.

Sixteen bacteriological examinations were made on the raw water, and on the piped supply after treatment, all of which were satisfactory.

One chemical analysis was made which proved satisfactory.

# CHEMICAL ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC WATER.

	Parts per 100,000	Grains per Gallon
Total solids (dried at 180° C.) ...	44.0	30.8
Combined chlorine (Cl) ...	2.2	1.5
Equivalent to Sodium Chloride (Na Cl) ... ..	3.6	2.5
Nitric nitrogen (Nitrates) ... ..	0.14	0.10
Nitrous nitrogen (Nitrites) ... ..	Nil	Nil
Ammoniacal nitrogen ... ..	Nil	Nil
Albuminoid nitrogen ... ..	0.0014	0.0010
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27° C.	0.015	0.011
Lead or Copper ... ..	Nil	Nil
Temporary hardness (equivalent to Ca CO <sub>3</sub> ) ... ..	27.0	18.9
Permanent hardness (equivalent to Ca CO <sub>3</sub> ) ... ..	10.0	7.0
Total hardness (equivalent to Ca CO <sub>3</sub> ) ... ..	37.0	25.9

## 2. SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The two sewage works, one serving the Gawcott area and one the Buckingham area, have continued to work fairly satisfactorily throughout the year.

The old works in Buckingham has maintained a fairly high standard of effluent.

Amendments to the new disposal scheme have been agreed with the consulting engineers effecting a considerable financial saving.

## 3. REFUSE DISPOSAL.

Refuse is collected approximately once a fortnight in the rural part of the area, and weekly in the built-up area.

Complaints regarding refuse collection are few and infrequent.

The refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping, one tip being situated in the Bourton Road area and the other in the Gawcott area.

## 4. SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

At the time of going to press, the new Swimming Pool has been in operation a fortnight, and is being very well patronised by the public.

Local schools are using the Pool every week day during the summer season.

## 5. FACTORIES.

No matters calling for special attention have been reported, and Factories Act Form 572 has been completed.



## 6. PUBLIC MORTUARY.

The Public Mortuary, situated in this Council's yard, continued to serve the needs of the Borough and the Rural District.

## D. Housing.

During the year 26 families were re-housed and 20 new Council houses were completed and occupied during the year.

## E. Annual Report of Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector.

I have pleasure in presenting a brief report on the principal activities of the Public Health Department during 1954.

### Nuisances, Contraventions of Bye-Laws, etc.

Complaints received and investigated ... ..	677
Nuisances, etc., found without complaint ... ..	22
Nuisances, etc., abated ... ..	648
Statutory Notices served under the Public Health Acts	1
Informal Notices served under the Public Health Acts	59
Prosecutions ... ..	Nil

### Houses and Premises Inspected.

The total number of inspections under the Public Health Acts were as follows:—

Dairies and Cowsheds ... ..	6
Bakehouses ... ..	10
Butchers' Shops ... ..	14
Slaughter Houses ... ..	152
Foodshops ... ..	37
Visits under the Tuberculosis Order ... ..	5
Infected house visits (excluding Tuberculosis cases)	9
Miscellaneous visits ... ..	84
•	317

In addition to the above, visits were carried out under the Housing Act, Factories Act, Shops Act, Rats and Mice Destruction Act, and Petroleum Act, and Disinfestation of Vermin-infested properties.

### **Housing Act, 1936.**

It is still not practicable to carry out the routine inspections under the above Act, but 35 inspections have been carried out.

### **Factories Act, 1937.**

Mechanical Factories on the Register ... ..	24
Non-mechanical Factories ... ..	2
Visits paid to Factories ... ..	18

### **Milk and Dairies Regulation, 1949.**

Retail premises and distributors continue to be under the control of this Council and are required to be registered and subject to periodic inspection.

Two large receiving depots in the district were visited from time to time during the year, and conditions found to be satisfactory.

### **Slaughterhouses and Food Supply.**

Two Slaughterhouses in Buckingham operate privately. Strict meat inspection routine, in accordance with the Ministry of Health Memo, 62, Foods, was carried out.

130 visits were made, and all animals slaughtered for sale for human consumption were examined. Numerous visits were made to other food premises for the inspection of unsound foodstuffs.

Approximately 188 Beasts, 734 Sheep, 80 Calves and 170 Pigs were slaughtered during the year.

### **Petroleum (Consolidation) Act, 1928**

Licences issued for the storage of Petroleum Spirit	30
Inspection of Petroleum Stores ... ..	18

### **Rats and Mice (Destruction) Order, 1919.**

### **Rodent Infestation Order, 1943.**

Work under this heading has continued to occupy a large amount of time, and much good work has been done in this direction throughout the year. The following is a brief summary of the work carried out:—

Number of complaints received ... ..	65
Number of premises treated for rats ... ..	72
Number of premises treated for mice ... ..	5
Estimated number of rats destroyed ... ..	350
Actual rats' bodies found ... ..	180
Visits for Inspection and Survey ... ..	91
Visits for Baiting and Extermination ... ..	212

RENNIE TAYLOR,  
Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector.

## **F. Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and Other Diseases.**

### **1. GENERAL.**

Apart from 11 cases of Scarlet Fever which occurred early in the year we were very free from the notifiable infectious diseases. There were several cases of Mumps and Chickenpox towards the end of the year.

### **2. NUMBER OF NOTIFIED CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.**

	1953	1954
Measles ... ..	38	—
Scarlet Fever ... ..	1	11
Whooping Cough ... ..	11	—
Erysipelas ... ..	—	1

### **3. CANCER.**

There were 11 deaths from this disease during the year.

### **4. TUBERCULOSIS.**

Seven new cases were notified but it is satisfactory to note that there were no deaths. Two of the cases notified were transfers into the district.

**D. H. WALDRON,**

**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.**

